

Today, Congressman Earl Blumenauer issued the following statement in response to the energy and environment priorities outlined in the President's budget:

"The President's budget offers a clear path towards improving our energy security and independence. In particular, it highlights the incredible savings that we can bring taxpayers by eliminating billions in wasteful subsidies to prop up big oil companies that are already raking in sky-high profits. With Congress already considering deep budget cuts that will require American families to make sacrifices, it is only fair that we also stop the handouts to our richest oil companies. We have already introduced legislation in the House, the [Ending Big Oil Tax Subsidies Act](#) (H.R. 601), to make this happen. It is far better that we direct these savings towards Department of Energy programs for research, development and deployment of clean energy technologies.

"I also applaud the President's focus on the Better Buildings Initiative, which will make our offices, stores, schools, hospitals and other commercial buildings more efficient. This is a concrete step we can take right now to save money and reduce pollution 20% by 2020. I am also happy to see continued sustainable communities funding at HUD, EPA and DOT to help communities coordinate investments in transportation, housing and land use in a way that improves livability and makes expenditures more efficient.

"Importantly, this budget also reinstates much-needed revenue provisions to fund cleanup at Superfund sites. Since 1995, when these provisions expired, American taxpayers have been left to foot the bill for cleaning up some of our country's most toxic polluted sites. More than 70 million Americans live within four miles of a Superfund site, and are exposed to toxic waste linked to problems like infertility, birth defects and breathing difficulties. Reinstating the Superfund tax is critical to cleaning up these polluted sites and protecting public health."

"The President's budget also fully funds the Land and Water Conservation Fund, which is vital to protecting the environment and a healthy economy by protecting land across Oregon and around the country. Many treasured places in my state, from the Columbia River Gorge to the Sandy River to Hells Canyon have been protected with funding from the LWCF. The budget keeps our commitment to offset some of the destructive effects of oil and gas production by preserving places with high quality recreation opportunities and vital wildlife habitat.

“I am disappointed by proposed cuts to clean water and drinking water infrastructure. The American Society of Civil Engineers has given our nation’s drinking water and wastewater infrastructure a grade of “D-minus” in its most recent report card. The Environmental Protection Agency estimates a \$632 billion shortfall in water infrastructure funding over the next 20 years. At a time when governments at all levels are faced with budget constraints, communities are burdened by financing the upgrade and replacement of aging infrastructure, much of which was built over 100 years ago. Funding for water infrastructure not only helps protect public health, but also supports jobs: the U.S. Conference of Mayors has found that each public dollar invested in water infrastructure increases private long-term GDP output by more than \$6.”